

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for a user to interface with a workflow server, including:
accepting a task form user document from the user, said task form user document containing data tags and/or process tags, said data tags identifying persisted and non-persisted data components;
passing said task form user document to an XML Execution Engine;
accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute said process tags and/or how to interpret said data tags;
storing said persisted data components in one or more form data tables;
executing said process tags, accessing a database if necessary;
returning an XML document back to said user, said XML document containing a reference to an XSL file and containing the output of said execution of said process tags; and
displaying said XML document using said XSL file.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said accepting includes accepting a user document from the user via a web browser.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said process tags indicate one or more processes to be executed and said data tags indicate information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said data tags and process tags are XML tags found in said XML name space.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said XSL file defines a stylesheet for displaying said returned XML document in said web browser.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said XML namespace contains tags which define data tables, substitute data retrieved from said database, perform workflow functions, and generate said returned XML document according to logic described in said tags.

13-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for a user to interface with a workflow server, the method including:

accepting a task form user document from the user, said task form user document containing data tags and/or process tags, said data tags identifying persisted and non-persisted data components;

passing said task form user document to an XML Execution Engine;

accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute said process tags and/or how to interpret said data tags;

storing said persisted data components in one or more form data tables;

executing said process tags, accessing a database if necessary;

returning an XML document back to said user, said XML document containing a

reference to an XSL file and containing the output of said execution of said process tags; and

displaying said XML document using said XSL file.

18. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said data tags include user-defined types.

19. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said data tags include a single select type, wherein said single select type defines a set of possible values from which a user may select a single entry.

20. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said data tags include a multiple select type, wherein said multiple select type defines a set of possible values from which a user may select multiple entries.

21. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said data tags include a multiple column type, wherein said multiple column type defines a set of possible values from a base form data table, wherein a workflow server generates a separate column for each of said possible values from said base form data table.

22. (New) An apparatus for a user to interface with a workflow server, including:

means for accepting a task form from the user, said task form containing data tags and/or process tags, said data tags identifying persisted and non-persisted data components;

means for passing said task form to an XML Execution Engine;

means for accessing an XML namespace to determine how to execute said process tags and/or how to interpret said data tags;

means for storing said persisted data components in one or more form data tables;

means for executing said process tags, accessing a database if necessary;

means for returning an XML document back to said user, said XML document containing a reference to an XSL file and containing the output of said execution of said process tags; and

means for displaying said XML document using said XSL file.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for accepting includes means for accepting a user document from the user via a web browser.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said process tags indicate one or more processes to be executed and said data tags indicate information.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said data tags and process tags are XML tags found in said XML name space.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said XSL file defines a stylesheet for displaying said returned XML document in said web browser.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said XML namespace contains tags which define data tables, substitute data retrieved from said database, perform workflow functions, and generate said returned XML document according to logic described in said tags.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said data tags include user-defined types.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said data tags include a single select type, wherein said single select type defines a set of possible values from which a user may select a single entry.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said data tags include a multiple select type, wherein said multiple select type defines a set of possible values from which a user may select multiple entries.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said data tags include a multiple column type, wherein said multiple column type defines a set of possible values from a base form data table, wherein a workflow server generates a separate column for each of said possible values from said base form data table.